

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

MAY 2004

Atlanta Hamfest 2004 rolls out the red carpet for Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV

Also: **Welcome back MFJ?** Details TBA

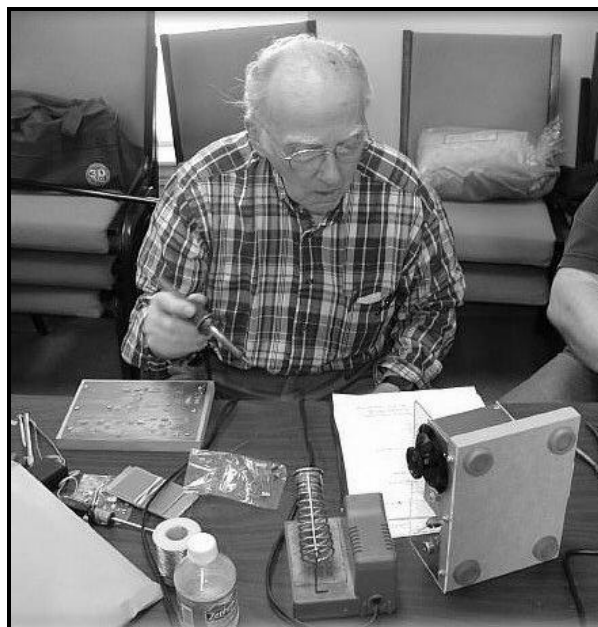
Atlanta Hamfest Chairman John Talipsky, N3ACK, reports that things are progressing well for the Atlanta Hamfest on June 5th.

The ARRL has approved the attendance of Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV. Dennis is the Sales and Marketing Manager or ARRL and active DXer. Dennis plans to do a forum related to the recent survey of Amateur Radio that was done by the League. The survey was an attempt to find the pulse of Amateur Radio. Dennis has promised an interesting forum with a little humor thrown in. We are honored to be the jumping off point for this presentation. We'll be one of the first to see the presentation.

"Table reservations have progressed a little differently this year but pretty much at the same pace and interest as last year," N3ACK reports.

John reports that there is a strong possibility that MFJ will return this year and he should have it confirmed by first week in May. This is great news, vendors are excited at the continued progress of the Atlanta Radio Club to grow the hamfest in its new venue and the word continues to get around that things are happening in Atlanta. Work is also continuing in regards to getting a commitment from ICOM in 2005.

There is still a big need for folks to step up and assist in some of the duties associated with arranging the many aspects of a hamfest. If you have an interest in helping to



North Georgia QRP
Build Day V - April 9, 2004
Russ Richardson AE4NY (ARC W4DOC Member)

make this a great event please contact John, N3ACK.

HAM-Congressmen urge FCC Chairman's support for ARRL restructuring plan

The only Amateur Radio licensees in the US Congress-- Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), have written FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place.

ARRL Letter April 30, 2004

"We believe that this plan will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and

opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country," Walden and Ross said in an April 23 letter. "We urge you to support the ARRL's restructuring plan and to implement it rapidly."

The FCC now is considering a total of nearly 1300 comments filed on the League's restructuring plan and on two other similar petitions--one from a group called the Radio Amateur Foundation, RM-10868, and the other from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10870. A fourth petition from Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, RM-10869, dealt solely with the Amateur Radio

(Continued on page 7)

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Atlanta Radio Club
Attn: HAM EDITOR
PO BOX 720398
Atlanta, Georgia 30358

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

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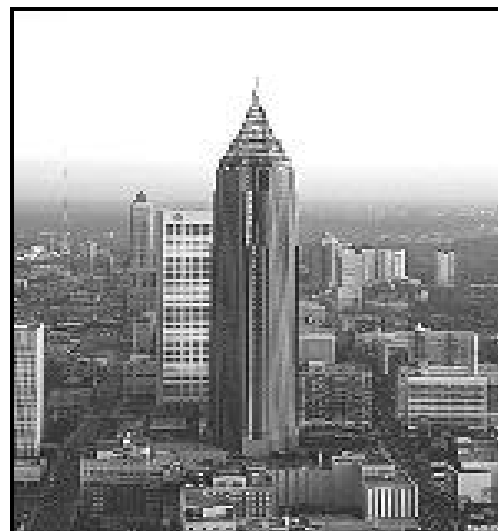
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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea markets of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.



Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN:

Thursday May 6 , 2004 7:30PM

WHERE:

Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive –
Atlanta

PROGRAM: American Red Cross
Demonstration of the Mobile Response
Van and what we can do to help man
the vehicle

TALK IN:

146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER: Piccadilly @ Ansley Mall
Located 1/2 mile from Red Cross
On Monroe Drive



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Newsletter
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New Radio Club to the west

The Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

The Silver Comet Amateur
Radio Society next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4th at
the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting will begin at

7:00 pm and we will have a demo on new HF Radios and the com-
puter controlled software that runs them. Some of the HF radios fea-
tured will be Yaesu and Kenwood.

443.475 (+) 77hz.

www.silvercometars.com

Andrea Hartlage is named Assistant Section Manager/ Youth for the GA Section.

Source: The ARRL GA SECTION NEWS

Young people are an important part of our hobby, and vital to its healthy future. We all know that. One of the most outstanding young hams in Georgia is Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, who is the ARRL's online Youth Editor. She is a dedicated young lady, both in amateur radio and in the many other pursuits in which she excels, and is a true inspiration to other young people who aspire to become hams. An extra class licensee, she is active in Gwinnett ARES, in several ham clubs, and even serves as a mentor/instructor for the Richards Middle School ARC. A seasoned net control operator, and recipient of a coveted A-1 Operator certificate, Andrea conducts herself on the air with a poise and maturity way beyond her years, whether on phone or CW. In fact, she received a "good operator" card from an OO in Illinois a couple of years ago who heard her in QSO on CW from the ham station at SciTrek museum, where she was volunteering. She also sports quite a collection of tee shirts from the many public service events at which she's helped provide communications.

And so it is an honor to announce that this wonderful young lady has agreed to accept the appointment of Assistant Section Manager/ Youth for the GA Section. Alabama Section Manager, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, may have been the first to come up with the brilliant idea of appointing a young person as an assistant, but a great idea is a great idea. It's a privilege to follow suit.



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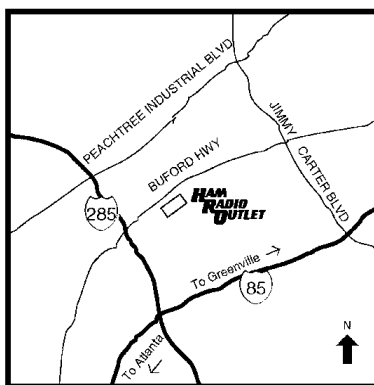
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All the top brands of amateur radio equipment available!

We'll see you in June at the Hamfest!

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METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm 2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Lilburn, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
4th Friday of Every Month at 7:00 pm
St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Rd
Contact: Howie Gould, W9HG (770) 921-8362
Headphones provided for CW tests.

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 8:30 am Stone Mountain United Methodist Church, 5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2004

Always the 4th Saturday!

STARS – MAY, 12 pm – 3 pm SCITREK

Contact Penn. K4PE

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

1-2 May 2004 * Alabama Section Convention
Birmingham ARC

1 May 2004 * South Carolina Section Convention
Blue Ridge ARS
<http://www.upstatehamfest.org>

14-16 May 2004 x Dayton Hamvention
Dayton ARA
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

5 Jun 2004 * Georgia Section Convention
Atlanta Radio Club

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Don't forget the WAC Award...

Ever wonder why a state the size of Georgia would have 159 counties? California, which is THREE times as big, only has 58. So why 159 for Georgia? Some people say it's to provide a more fertile environment for, um, "local politics." Others say it's so that every person in the state could go by mule from his home to the county seat and back in one day.

We think not. We think that, in a moment of clairvoyant foreknowledge, our state leaders knew that Ham Radio operators of the next century would appreciate a challenge, and structured the present administrative nightmare solely for the benefit of our hobby! (For the real history and geography of Georgia counties, see the Georgia Counties Page of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia.)

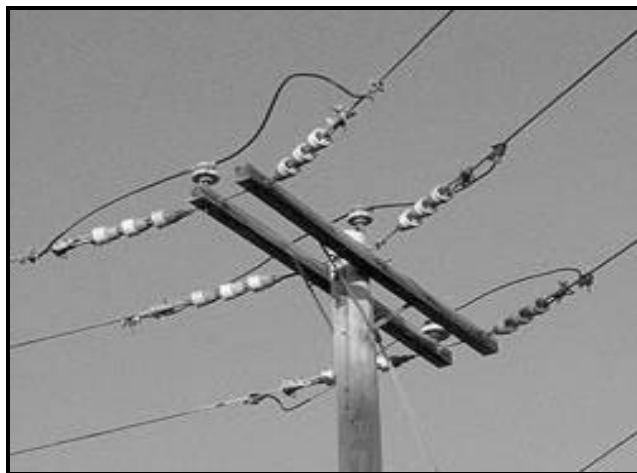
The WAG Award is open to radio amateurs who can provide proof of two-way radio amateur radio contact with all 159 counties in the state of Georgia. Progress Certificates are available for **50** and **100** Georgia counties. This award is nice complement to the annual Georgia QSO Party, which in fact would be a good time to work on some of those hard-to-get counties.

GO TO WWW.W4DOC.ORG FOR MORE INFO

UTILITY DRAWS "LINE IN THE SAND" ON BPL INTERFERENCE ABATEMENT

In an e-mail this week to the FCC, an electric utility testing broadband over power line (BPL) systems in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area has drawn a virtual line in the sand on how far it plans to go to mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. Responding this week to the FCC about BPL interference complaints from hams, Progress Energy Corp (PEC) told the FCC that his company has eliminated any harmful interference from its BPL trial site and now complies with FCC rules. "It is PEC's position and interpretation of the FCC's rules with regard to 'harmful interference' that any interference that may still exist is not 'harmful' as that term is defined by the FCC's rules," Len Anthony, PEC's attorney for regulatory affairs, told James Burtie, chief of the FCC's Experimental License Branch. "This level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions or cause repeated interruptions." Some, but not all, of PEC's BPL field trials are covered by an FCC Part 5 experimental license. The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations." Anthony claimed that since PEC can modify its Amperion BPL system to totally eliminate interference to fixed stations, "the only impact of any kind upon ham operations is upon mobile operators." PEC concluded that since BPL interference to mobiles would be "very short lived," the company is not causing harmful interference and is in "full compliance" with FCC Part 15 rules. ARRL North Carolina Public Information Officer Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, suggests PEC has a bit more work to do. He is among local amateurs closely monitoring BPL deployment in the test zones and cooperating with PEC and Amperion to work out any interference issues. Pearce says interference remains on the top end of 20 meters in an overhead-line field trial neighborhood where PEC recently had tweaked its system. "Nothing had changed," he told ARRL after visiting the neighborhood in the wake of Anthony's e-mail. "They were still covering up the top end of the 20-meter band." Interference to 17 and 12 meters had been notched out, but beyond that, BPL interference persisted from 14.290 to nearly 17 MHz, he said, and "fringe" carriers still encroached some 100 kHz into the bottom of 15 meters. Interference had not been mitigated at all in neighborhoods with underground power service, he said. Progress Energy has been operating its "Phase II" trial in three neighborhoods south of Raleigh since early January. The area, in Wake County, is largely rural or lightly set-

ARRL Letter
April 23, 2004



tled. No hams live in the underground-wired neighborhood, so none complained, Pearce said. The handful of BPL interference complaints eventually lodged with the FCC came from amateurs living closer to the overhead-wired neighborhood, and some were from mobile operators. Pearce said PEC's stance regarding mobile stations "sets a new bar" in interpreting harmful interference. "Hams have never been asked to accept that level of interference before," he said, noting that mobiles driving by a power line can hear the signal for "a mile or so." The ARRL's BPL strategy calls for the League to seek a radiated emission limit sufficient to protect the estimated 70,000 Amateur Radio mobile stations in the US. ARRL field observations using typical amateur equipment have documented BPL interference to mobile stations located hundreds of meters from BPL interference sources. Pearce says the North Carolina hams will respond to Progress Energy and the FCC to disagree with its interpretation of "harmful interference" and its conclusion regarding interference to mobiles. While he maintains that controlling BPL in a small trial area like his should not be that difficult, "having BPL buzzing across all the power lines in a large city is another story entirely, and that's what we're worried about." ARRL CEO David Sumner framed the situation another way. "If BPL emissions block weak signals that otherwise would be usable, that is harmful interference and they must remedy it," he said. "Progress Energy has as much as admitted that they can't. The only thing left for them to do is to shut their system down and get back to their basic business of supplying electrical energy." Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>>.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 720398 Atlanta, GA 30358

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Make your check payable to Atlanta Radio Club

HAM-Congressmen urge FCC Chairman's support for ARRL restructuring plan

(Continued from page 1)

Morse code requirement. It attracted more than 200 comments before the April 23 comment deadline.

The ARRL plan proposes a new entry-level Amateur Radio license--being called "Novice" for now--that would include HF privileges without requiring a Morse code exam, consolidate the current six license classes into three

The League's plan "is needed right now to promote greater growth of the healthy, exciting and rewarding intellectual pursuit of Amateur Radio."

Walden--a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet--and Ross invited Powell to share his thoughts on the matter.

"We believe that this plan will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country,"

and retain a 5 WPM Morse test only for Amateur Extra class applicants. It also would integrate current Technician licensees into General and current Advanced licensees into Amateur Extra without additional testing.

"The ARRL's license restructuring plan, once implemented, will complete the Commission's [restructuring] plan, initiated in 1998, and will provide a blueprint for licensing well into the next decade," Walden and Ross said.



ARRL TENNESSEE SECTION CONVENTION
Saturday June 12, 9 AM to 4 PM
Electronics Exposition Friday June 11 - 6 PM to 9 PM
(Friday admission by advance ticket package only)
KNOXVILLE EXHIBITION CENTER
WORLD'S FAIR PARK
TALK-IN on W4BBB Repeaters 147.30, 224.50,
444.575 LINKED

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358



MEETING NOTICE - THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2004

NEW MORSE "@"; CHARACTER BECOMES OFFICIAL MAY 3

NEW MORSE "@"; CHARACTER BECOMES OFFICIAL MAY 3 The International Morse code officially gains a new character on May 3. That's when the now-familiar "@"; symbol joins the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together (---.-.).

ARRL Letter April 30, 2004

Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so. Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specified the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures and included the new Morse code character. The pending change has attracted some attention in the media, including mentions on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and in The New York Times.

Every Friday: Please join the Atlanta Radio Club for lunch Fridays around noon at the 5 Seasons Restaurant. At I-285 and Roswell Rd go south on Roswell Rd, 0.2 mile turn right. 5 Seasons Restaurant drive way is the first driveway past 1 Stop light. First stop light is Lake Placid Dr. After turning right go till dead end. Turn right and you are there.